Hike in Steel Prices

*59. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage increase effected in steel prices recently as compared to the previous price increase;

(b) what are the reasons for the steep hike in the prices of steel;

(c) what will be its over-all impact on the industry which is passing through a severe recession and on steel consuming units as a whole; and

(d) in what manner it has affected India's exports based on steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The average price increase effected by the integrated steel plants from 18th/19th May, 1992 was 15 per cent as compared to 5 per cent in September, 1990.

(b) The recent increase in price has been to neutralise the increases in costs of inputs on account of coal price revision, readjustment of rupee value and exchange rate variations, impact of two Union Budgets and two Railway Budgets, increases in power and water rates, etc.

(c) The integrated steel plants account for 56 per cent of the total production of finished steel. In respect of the balance 44 per cent of the production, on which there was no price regulation, the price increase has been marginal. Thus, on an overall basis, the present price increase is unlikely to have a significant impact on industry, including steel consuming units.

(d) Steel used for manufacture of engineering goods for exports is covered under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS), which enables exporters to claim differential between the domestic and international prices. Thus, the recent price increase should not affect the exports of steel based products.

Joint Entrance Examination for IITs

*60. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent Joint Entrance Examination for the IITs papers for some subjects had more than one correct answers thereby confusing the candidates and making the evaluation difficult;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the result of the inquiry, if any, made by Government into the matter; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) In the recently conducted Joint Entrance Examination for admissions to IITs and IT-BHU, there was a screening paper, as per established practice, for the sole purpose of shortlisting candidates whose performance in the main papers was to be evaluated in order to prepare the All India Merit List. The screening paper contained objective type questions and the examinees were required to identify the correct answer(s). The evaluation procedure involved preparation of model answers by the paper setters. These model answers were then moderated upon and examined critically by different committees of examiners to incorporate all possible cor-